

present to us now and in the future, the stiffer their resolve will be.

And so I feel that time is on our side. And I believe that 10 years from now, not in the heat of this moment, 15 years from now, when people look back at this time, they will want to look back at a period when those of us in positions of responsibility fulfilled our responsibility by trying to rid the world of this danger.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:25 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

Exchange With Reporters at the Living Classroom Foundation in Baltimore

February 19, 1998

Water Testing

Q. Tell us, what does it mean?

The President. Well, this water is from here. So they wanted to test the water to see if it could accommodate life. And you had to put this free agent in the water, and then you shake it up, and then you match it up with these colors here, to see which one it's like. So we put it in here, and the color is most like this one—7.5 to 9, and then here's the chart. It's around neutral; this way it will accommodate life. If it's too acidic, obviously it won't. But if it gets way out here, it's too basic, it won't. So anywhere in this range, right, 7 to 10 is okay. And you see the color here is like in between these two.

I learned all that from Brandon here, my science instructor—[laughter]—my marine biology instructor here. You did a great job.

Brandon Hunter. Any time.

The President. And so did you, Aaron.

The Vice President. Aaron did a great job, too.

Brandon. This was fun.

The President. Was it fun for you?

Brandon. Yep.

The President. It was fun for us, too. Thanks.

President's Travel

Q. Mr. President, if you're grounding the Vice President, will you be skipping some of your trips over the next couple of weeks, too?

The Vice President. We're going to go do this event now, and then we'll—

The President. I didn't ground him. Don't get too carried away with the school metaphors here. I just asked him to stay around.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:55 a.m. at the Living Classroom Foundation. In his remarks, he referred to Brandon Hunter and Aaron Hunt, Middlesex Elementary School students who participated in a water testing project. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Announcing the New Clean Water Initiative in Baltimore

February 19, 1998

Thank you very much, Thank you. I don't know about you, but I thought that Larry Simms did a terrific job. Can we give him a hand? [Applause] I've been in public life long enough to know when a guy throws a sucker punch. When he got up there and said, "Oh, I'm just this lowly president of"—[laughter]—I thought this guy is fixing to give us a heck of a good talk. [Laughter] And sure enough, he did.

I thank you for providing as much as anything else, Larry, a historic perspective, going back through generations of your family's life, and also reminding us that we all have a stake in clean water one way or another, and all of us who depend upon you and the people like you to provide us with good, clean, safe seafood have sometimes a bigger connection than even we're aware of.

Thank you, Mr. Vice President, for your leadership and your inspiration to me over these last 5 years. Thank you, Secretary Glickman and Administrator Browner. I thank Senator Sarbanes, a truly remarkable person, for all the many wonderful things he has done for Maryland and with our administration. I thank Senator Mikulski, who doubles the energy of any room she is in. [Laughter] Barbara couldn't see me, but I was rolling my eyes when she said, well, she never dreamed she could get the President to come, and maybe it just happened to be—if you believe that—[laughter]. When she makes up her mind to do something—you're just like my dog, Buddy, grabbing a bone.